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PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: John Bowen
Serial Number: Unknown
Filing Date: Concurrent
Examiner/Art Group Unit: Unknown/Unknown
Title: METHOD OF HANGING A FALSE CLOTH CEILING

STATEMENT AND DISCUSSION OF MOST RELEVANT PRIOR ART

Attn: MS Patent Application
Commissioner for Patents
P. O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

A pre-examination search was conducted in the following Classes/Subclasses relating to the subject matter of the above-identified invention: Class 52, Subclasses 222, 327 and 506.06. The attached list is a result of the pre-examination search. Of the attached listing of references, the following are believed to be the references deemed most closely related to the subject matter encompassed by the claims. The following references are enclosed.

Publication No. U. S. 2003/0163966 by Reynolds et al. discloses a method and apparatus for cladding elongated structural members. This publication discloses an I-beam or a tubular member having a batten receiver integrally formed in the tubular wall or in the I-beam. The batten receiver includes a pair of shoulders and a pair of guide walls. The receiver is configured to receive a batten having a pair of rounded ridges which are substantially congruent to the channels in the receiver. When the batten is compressed into engagement with the batten in the receiver by a fastener 46, the margins of the cladding sheets are trapped therebetween. The present claimed invention is distinguished from the publication of Reynolds by requiring a false ceiling comprising a U-shaped member having center portions of a plurality of elongate slots therein and a means for connecting the U-shaped member to a truss wherein the elongate slots allow the connecting means

selective positioning relative to the U-shaped member. The Reynolds disclosure does not show or disclose means for connecting its apparatus to a truss. Nor does the Reynolds disclosure show a means for selectively positioning relative to the U-shaped member.

U.S. Patent No. 6,164,364 issued to Morris discloses a track assembly for supporting fabrics. The track system includes a first and second track that are hingedly connected to each other. The second track is swingably hinged away from the surface to facilitate placement of a sheet of fabric and the subsequent swinging of the second track into opposing clamping relationship to the first track to lock the fabric therebetween. The present invention is distinguished from the Morris patent in that the flexible material is secured to inner surfaces of spaced flanges of the U-shaped member.

U.S. Patent No. 5,224,306 issued to Cramer discloses an enclosure assembly. The Cramer disclosure includes a plastic sheet member connected to side members which are then covered by caps to secure the plastic means to the frames formed by the side members. The present invention is distinguished from the Cramer invention. The Cramer patent does not show or disclose means for connecting a U-shaped member to a truss. Nor does the Cramer patent show the U-shaped member having elongate slots for positioning of the U-shaped member.

U.S. Patent No. 5,209,029 issued to Foerst discloses a construction assembly for awnings. The assembly includes a support member for holding margin ends of the cover. Lock beads 78 and 80 are used to grip the margins of the material within the support member. The present invention is distinguished from the Foerst patent in that the material is held within flanges by means of a hook and loop strips such as Velcro®. The Foerst patent uses locking beads for holding the material within the cavity. Further, the Foerst patent does not show or disclose means for connecting the U-shaped member to a truss having elongate slots for selective positioning thereof.

U.S. Patent No. 4,887,626 issued to Dalo et al. discloses a stretched cloth fixing device. The invention has an extruded section 12 having grooves that secure the edges of the sheets by means of locking rods. The sheets are configured to

have beads 3 running along its edges to facilitate the locking of the sheets by the locking rod 6. The present invention is distinguished from Dalo et al. in that the present invention requires a U-shaped member and means for connecting to a truss and further elongate slots in the U-shaped member for positioning of the U-shaped member relative to the truss. These features are not shown or disclosed in Dalo et al.

Respectfully submitted,

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